Vacancies of Addl. District & Session Judges in Delhi

*186. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of vacancies of Additional District and Session Judges are yet to be filled up in the Delhi Judiciary;

(b) what is the number of cases pending in the same courts;

(c) whether there are any plans to appoint regular and additional judges to clear the backlog of cases;

(d) whether it is a fact that the female judges are very few in the above mentioned courts; and

(e) whether there are any plans to appoint female judges in Delhi courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were 58,855 cases pending in these courts as on 31-12-1984.

(c) The Government have recently sanctioned 14 temporary posts of Additional District and Session Judges.

(d) and (e) There is no reservation for female candidates for appointment to the Delhi Higher Judicial Service and the Delhi Judicial Service and the candidates are selected according to the procedure laid down under the Delhi Higher Judicial Service Rules and the Delhi Judicial Service Rules.

Uri Hydro-electric Project

*189. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 928 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1986 and state:

(a) what are the details of the agreement arrived at between the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and the Jammu & Kashmir Government for sharing the electricity generated from the Uri Hydro-electric project; and

(b) what are the steps taken by Government to ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated time in the light of the experience of the Salal and Dul Hasti Projects in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have agreed to the execution of the proposed Uri Hydro-electric Project in the Central Sector by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, in accordance with the formula for sharing of power and benefits from Central Hydro-electric Projects

(b) Infrastructure/pre-construction works are proposed to be taken up in advance of the commencement of works on the main components of the project in order to compress the schedule of construction.

Development of Non-conventional sources of Energy

*190. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Solar Energy Society of India has recently urged the Central Government to come out with a clearcut policy on the development and use of non-conventional sources of energy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The National Solar Energy Convention 1986 of the Solar Energy Society of India was held at the Madurai Kamraj University from 13—15 September, 1986. The suggestions

made at the Convention call for greater support for the development and use of non-conventional energy sources and increased financial allocations for this purpose. Certain other suggestions have also been made including strengthening of policies to accelerate the programmes.

The suggestions made at the Convention have just been received from the Society and are being looked into.

Import of junk DMT plant by M|s Bombay Dyeing

*192. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Navbharat Times of 14th October, 1986 that a licence has recently been issued to M/s Bombay Dyeing for importing a junk DMT plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that actual cost of the plant is much less than the amount for which import has been permitted; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold a judicial enquiry into the whole affair?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news-item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' on 14th October, 1986 refers to interview given by Shri P. C. Sethi. It is alleged that M/s Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Ltd. imported a second-hand DMT plant which is a junk at a cost of Rs. 60 crores in Foreign Exchange whereas the actual cost was only Rs. 18 crores.

These allegations are not correct. The total foreign exchange approved for the DMT Project of M/s Bombay Dyeing was US $ 25 million. This figure has remained unaltered.

The import of second-hand plant was permitted as per the policy prevalent at the time of imports. The plant has been certified by the Indian Chartered Engineer as well as by a reputed firm of foreign consultants and production has already been started. Hence, it is wrong to term the plant as junk. As the allegations are *prima facie* baseless, the question of judicial enquiry does not arise.

Agreement for oil exploration

*193. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and the Soviet Union for oil exploration; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under an inter-governmental agreement signed on May 22, 1985, intensive integrated exploration of hydrocarbons is being taken up in two mutually agreed onshore areas in Cambay and Cauvery basins with the help of Soviet equipment and specialists. The Soviet Union has extended a long term Rouble Credit for the execution of these projects.

Haldia Petro-chemicals Project

*194. SHRI RAM KRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answers to Starred Question 301 and Unstarred Question 660 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1986 and 28th July. 1986, respectively, and state:

(a) whether the proposal for foreign collaboration for Haldia Petro-chemicals project has since been cleared